

as well are the vital international food assistance programs that serve as a core component of U.S. efforts to fight global hunger. These have expired as well.

In all, there are 37 programs that have expired, for absolutely no reason. Inaction on the Farm Bill by the House of Representatives is the perfect example of gridlock in Washington that so frustrates the American people. It threatens our economy. It threatens farmers. It harms the most vulnerable among us. And it is entirely pointless and avoidable.

For all their talk of cutting Federal spending and reducing the cost of entitlements, House leaders and the obstructive caucus to which they are catering, by blocking the Farm Bill are poised—by themselves—to increase the Federal deficit by at least \$12 to \$15 billion in 2013 alone. Let me say that again: these obstructionists in the House are threatening to drive up the deficit by \$12 to \$15 billion. While stalling and delaying work on the Farm Bill, saying they want further, draconian cuts in food assistance for the families across this land who are struggling the most, House leaders are about to drive us over this dairy cliff and exponentially increase government spending, hit consumers hard, and destroy the fragile economic gains we have made. This is not what the American people and our farmers deserve. Let's do what is right and pass the Senate Farm Bill into law—without further delay and without the political posturing.

TRIBUTE TO MARGE VAN HOOVE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize with great appreciation one of my longest-serving and loyal staffers, Marge Van Hoove. It is hard to imagine that this day would come, but she has earned a restful retirement from public service.

In January 1987, I had just been elected to serve my first term in the U.S. Senate, when Marge asked to work with me. Even before this meeting, she had been involved in my prior campaigns. Marge's 25 years of service in my Las Vegas office unlocks many wonderful memories.

Marge has always been the first to arrive and last to leave. She never missed a deadline and was always ready with her quick wit. One night, I phoned the office and asked her why she was there so late. She responded, "Because you are calling me so late." Her unyielding dedication to give each task her best is exemplary.

Ms. Van Hoove was the matriarch of my Las Vegas office. She trained staffers and made sure the office ran properly. As the manager of the front desk and scheduling, she saw the process evolve from a pen and paper operation to the modern electronic process that exists today. She also made sure the office maintained the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. She

would joke, "I'm not going to the Federal prison in Lumpoc for anybody."

Despite Marge's many responsibilities, she never forgot a single assignment. No matter what task was assigned to her, she would see it through to its successful completion. Marge never had a sick day until her recent health battles. And even during that difficult time, she worked from home and always staying abreast of all office business.

Marge has a wonderful, engaging sense of humor and accompanied with a memorable laugh. She would pick out quirks among staff and with good nature poke fun at them. She also knew every member of my security detail by name and would charm them during their State visits. To her, everyone was, "Jose" or "Lucille." She would always say, "Ok, Jose" or "Here's the deal, Lucille."

Marge was not only a leader in my office, but a woman of great faith and strength at home. She was born in Santa Fe, NM, but grew up in the San Francisco area, which explains her adoration for the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. She was married to her husband John Van Hoove for 33 years, and they raised two sons John Jr. and Steve. Marge is a proud grandmother of three grandchildren.

Marge's departure into retirement leaves behind a void, but I know that she has instilled many of her strong values and tireless work ethic into the staff she trained. Marge's country western music and cowgirl boots will be out of sight, but she will not be out of the minds of those she worked with. Landra and I will miss our forever friend, Marge, and extend to her our heartfelt love.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to my friend, Senator Daniel K. Inouye. This week in the Senate, we lost a colleague, a mentor, and a compass, and what is more our country lost one of the greatest heroes of the "Greatest Generation".

We are a Nation that still holds its heroes dear, and that is why it is so hard to say goodbye to Danny.

I can think of no place more fitting to say one last "Aloha" than at the very center of this Nation's Capitol Building as Danny rested under the Dome yesterday, which is the symbol of freedom to the entire world and the very freedom he gave so much of himself to protect.

And protect it he did. Danny stood up and fought the racial stereotypes that would have kept Japanese Americans from joining their friends and brothers in World War II. His service in France and Italy, including his heroic battle in Tuscany which earned him our highest military honor, helped fight the spread of evil and hate and religious persecution. In Congress, Danny kept a constant vigil in the service of the people of Hawaii, making sure our 50th State was as well represented as any of the original 13.

As we have gathered to honor him over the past 2 days here in Washington and will continue to gather over this weekend in Hawaii, to thank him, and to say a final farewell, we will be a Congress united. Not conservatives or liberals, Democrats or Republicans, 99 percent or 1 percent. We stand together just as Danny saw us all: as Americans.

Danny was a friend. Quick with a word of advice or encouragement, loyal to his friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in Danny's passing we lost a man who could bridge any divide. We lost a man who led in his platoon, in his caucus, and in his beloved home State of Hawaii.

Danny will be missed by this body and by his friends on both sides of the aisle. But it is my hope his spirit will remain with us, and help ensure that the next generation of heroes has the same freedoms he held so dear. We will never stop fighting to protect them, Danny. Mahalo and Aloha.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

JOE LIEBERMAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in a few days, the Senate will no longer benefit from the service of a member who has left an indelible mark on national security policy and on the Senate. Senator JOE LIEBERMAN has been my colleague and friend for more than two decades. We have shared triumphs and challenges, agreed and disagreed with one another, and each of us has served as a member of a committee the other chaired.

One challenge we have shared is the need to strengthen our nation's manufacturing sector, the economic backbone of our two states and indeed of the nation. Senator LIEBERMAN has served as chairman of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus, which has benefited greatly from his energy and leadership. He has been a dedicated supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers strengthen and grow in the face of international competition. In this work, Senator LIEBERMAN has been an ally of Michigan working families.

Of course, Senator LIEBERMAN and I have worked together on the Armed Services Committee, where he has been an active, thoughtful, principled and energetic member and subcommittee chairman. Senator LIEBERMAN joined the committee in 1993, and from the start, he made an impact. He was the author of what came to be known as the Lieberman Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, directing the Department of Defense to conduct a Quadrennial Defense Review. This review has become an integral part of our nation's defense planning, encouraging the Pentagon, Congress and all who contribute to defense strategy to confront tough questions about strategy, capabilities and resources.